

McComber (Joel)

THE

TRUE METHOD

OF

CONSTRUCTING

Lasts, Boots & Shoes.

By JOEL M<sup>C</sup>COMBER,

INVENTOR AND PATENTEE OF THE "M<sup>C</sup>COMBER LAST;" ALSO,  
OF THE "M<sup>C</sup>COMBER PATENT GLOVE-FITTING  
BOOTS AND SHOES."



INSIDE VIEW.

THIRD EDITION.

BOSTON, MASS.:

OFFICE, No. 154 WASHINGTON STREET.

1873.

## NEW ENGLAND TESTIMONIALS.

*See 3d page of cover.*

BOSTON, July 21, 1873.

MR. JOEL MCCOMBER — Dear Sir: I have, for several months past, worn a pair of boots made upon your patent lasts, which have given me entire satisfaction. No other last ever suited me so well.

CHAS. ENDICOTT, State Auditor of Mass.

BOSTON, Aug. 20, 1873.

MR. JOEL MCCOMBER — Dear Sir: Having worn boots made on your "patent last," I desire to express my entire satisfaction with the ease and comfort experienced from an excellent fit. The usual annoyance and unpleasantness of "breaking in" a new pair of boots is entirely obviated, — the boots fitting the foot at the start, and retaining their shape and beauty better than those made on the old plan.

J. A. CUMMINGS, 102 Washington St.

BOSTON, Aug. 20, 1873.

MR. J. MCCOMBER — Dear Sir: I have worn a pair of shoes for several months that were made on your last, and they give perfect satisfaction. They have been the most comfortable pair of shoes, and also kept their shape better, than any I have ever worn.

Yours truly, GEO. T. ANDREW, 5 Temple Place, Boston.

BOSTON, Aug. 22, 1873.

JOEL MCCOMBER, Esq. — Dear Sir: I have worn a pair of shoes made on your patent last, and they have given perfect satisfaction. I shall wear no more of the old style if those made on your last can be found in this city.

C. W. HOLDEN, 102 Washington St.

BOSTON, Aug. 22, 1873.

MR. JOEL MCCOMBER — Dear Sir: I have worn two pairs of boots made on your patent lasts. As for style, ease, and comfort, they surpass anything I have ever worn. I have recommended them to several of my friends, and they also say they will never have their shoes or boots made on any other lasts.

Yours respectfully, JAMES H. WILLIAMS,  
30 Hanover St., Room 6.

SALEM, N. H.

MR. JOEL MCCOMBER — Dear Sir: I have worn a pair of shoes for more than three months made over your patent lasts. I have not had a day's comfort in any other boot or shoe for years. These are perfectly comfortable. And I would say to all, Try a pair of boots or shoes made over the McComber patent, and you will soon forget your pains, and bless the patentee.

Truly yours, REV. O. G. WOODBURY.

# McComber's Patent Glove Fitting Boots and Shoes.

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As shown by the Pamphlet with which this notice is sent forth, the

**BOOTS & SHOES, made on the McComber Patent Last,** are desirable to a degree that will give them a preference wherever known, over all others on account of the ease, comfort, and beauty, which are shown in any goods made by the McComber Patent method.

In order to accommodate the increasing demand for these goods, I have opened rooms adjoining the office of the McComber Patent Last Co., where I am prepared to make to measure Boots and Shoes of any description, for ladies' and gentlemen's and children's wear, which, for ELEGANCE, STYLE and COMFORT, cannot be surpassed. All goods are guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction.

Persons at a distance wishing to test the qualities of this Last, can, by sending their measure as explained in the pamphlet (Fig. 5.), being particular about the instep measure be fitted perfectly, and in all such cases parties need not take the goods unless found satisfactory. Persons who have tender feet or bunions should mention the fact in their order.

Persons in Boston by leaving their order for goods, will be waited upon at their residences or offices, and measures taken.

Samples can be seen at the office of different kinds of Boots and Shoes, and a person in attendance to explain the principles on which the goods are made. Manufacturers especially are invited to call and examine, and they will find it for their benefit to do so.

**G. E. CURTIS,**

154 WASHINGTON STREET,

Boston, Mass.

# McDonough's Patent Glove Fitting Boots and Shoes.

—1872—

It differs from the Footprint with which this article is supplied.

## BOOTS & SHOES, MADE BY THE McDONOUGH PATENT METHOD.

These boots and shoes are made by a new and improved method, which is a perfect fit to the foot, and is the only method of making boots and shoes which is so perfect.

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A. E. FLETCHER

124 Westmoreland Street

LONDON, W.C.

THE  
TRUE METHOD  
OF  
CONSTRUCTING  
LASTS, BOOTS, AND SHOES.

By JOEL McCOMBER,  
INVENTOR AND PATENTEE OF THE "McCOMBER LAST;" ALSO, OF THE  
"McCOMBER PATENT GLOVE-FITTING BOOTS AND SHOES."



THIRD EDITION.

BOSTON, MASS.:  
OFFICE, No. 154 WASHINGTON STREET.  
1873.

Entered, according to Act of Congress, in the year 1871, by JOEL McCOMBER, in the Office of the Librarian of Congress, at Washington.

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On the last page I append a scale of all the different sizes and half sizes of men's, women's, boys', youths', misses', and children's lasts, giving the size in length, and six different widths on each size, which are numbered at the head of each column, from No. One to No. Six, giving the instep measure only. The ball, waist, and width of my last will have a corresponding grade with the instep measure. The first column in each table is the size or length. Suppose you want a last, boot, or shoe, size Seven, and the instep to measure eight and three fourths inches: refer to the table and you will see that it will be size Seven, No. One, and if the instep measures nine inches, it will be size Seven, No. Two, &c. I have a system of cutting patterns of boots and shoes, of all kinds, so adapted to my lasts that they can be lasted without forcing, only to take the stretch out of the leather, saving time to the workman. They go on and off the foot easier, fitting the heel and ankle much closer than the old way of cutting.

To all parties taking license to use my patent, last I furnish standard patterns adapted to my last for all kinds of boots and shoes, and patterns for crimp forms, also.

On the thirtieth page may be found New England certificates. A number of the leading manufacturers in New York, New Jersey, and elsewhere, whose names do not appear for want of space, have also adopted my patent last.

## THE TRUE METHOD OF CONSTRUCTING LASTS, BOOTS, AND SHOES.

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INVENTION has ever been the offspring of necessity in supplying the wants, alleviating the woes, and advancing the highest welfare of the human race. To meet the ever-increasing demands of a more perfect civilization, every age has given abundant opportunities for invention, and doubtless never has there been a time when the world has been so disposed as now to seek and require improved products of industry and skill. As evidence of this fact, witness the improvements in all the departments of active life and business. The constant tendency of the age is to seek for something better, and more rational views of its needs are being cherished and entertained. Hence the requirements for better food and better clothing, more commodious dwellings, greater domestic conveniences of every sort, better products of artisanry, better machinery to do work at less expenditure of motive force. Questions of convenience, economy, and health are becoming more and more matters of serious import, and I freely indulge in the opinion that there is no article of dress which more vitally concerns us than that for *our feet*.

#### 4 THE TRUE METHOD OF CONSTRUCTING

Who can not recall the painful experiences coming from wearing improperly-constructed boots and shoes? Pinched and cramped feet, deformed with corns and bunions, are living witnesses of abuse in this particular.

How many have lived since the days of the sandaled prophets who have not been tortured by misshapen and misfitting boots and shoes? Ignorance and tradition have wedged our feet into coverings so at variance with their natural shape and requirements, that we are scarcely better than a nation of cripples.

As to the unseemliness of distorted feet, produced from wearing misfitting boots and shoes, and as to the uncomeliness in the shapes of the latter, there can be no exaggeration. My attention began to be drawn to this subject years ago. From the very fact of my avocation (having been a practical last-maker and shoe-maker for more than a quarter of a century), I have naturally been led to observe, and particularly has my mind been drawn to the study of the anatomical structure and action of the human foot. I have observed much, and some facts derived from these observations are no less remarkable than true. Men's feet, as a general thing, are more distorted than those of the other sex. This is accounted for from the fact that the material of which their boots and shoes are made, being firmer and more unyielding, the feet have been compelled to conform to the un-



natural coverings, whereas in the other instance the more pliable material has been made to yield, to a great degree, to the natural shape of the foot.

In the first case, in the unequal contest with shoe-leather, the feet have sadly suffered; while in the second the feet have suffered less and shoes far more; and not only this, the wearing apparel for the feet is rendered most ungainly in appearance by being wrenched from its original shape in the endeavor to conform to the feet. These facts most forcibly argue the necessity of a modification in the common form of *boots and shoes*, or rather the adoption of an essentially different shape at once more comely and more conformable to the foot, as nature has made it. The fact is, if we would secure the triple advantage of comfort, comeliness, and durability in the wearing apparel for our feet, we *must* have these coverings made in the proper shape as herein subsequently set forth.

It is with no ordinary pleasure I offer to the public a desideratum which has never hitherto been supplied, and I must add that it is with cheerful confidence I anticipate a welcome to this reform which has been inaugurated and already met the approval of an appreciative public to the extent it has been tested. Many have sought in vain the luxury of a good-fitting boot or shoe; they have sought in vain relief from the discomfort of wearing ill-fitting ones. They have resorted to the expedient of having lasts made specially for their use, but without satisfaction.

## 6 THE TRUE METHOD OF CONSTRUCTING

I am sure all such will welcome the introduction of a form and *style of Last* which is constructed upon scientific principles, and made in all respects to meet the requirements of the case. Have parents ever considered how desirable it is to preserve the natural form and beauty in their *children's feet*, by clothing them properly?

How almost invariably are they deformed by improper and distorting pressures! . Being subjected to this harmful pressure at an early age, the tender bone and muscle has been compelled to assume an unnatural shape, and in all the future years this cruelty must be atoned for by an unremitting and unrelenting penance.

Who can doubt that *walking* would be far more commonly practiced—I mean for healthful exercise—if it were not attended with so much inconvenience? Many of our soldiers actually broke down in their feet during the recent war, as is well known, and hundreds of thousands were rejected on this very account.

Properly constructed boots and shoes would have prevented this.

Again: a moment's reflection must convince any one that boots and shoes, so made that no undue strain is brought upon one part, while scarcely any or none is exerted upon other parts, will last two or three times as long as those now commonly made. Hence there is a great economy in the expense from having them rightly made.

The following is a brief description of the principles involved in my invention of a new and useful method of constructing Lasts, Boots, and Shoes, for which I have Letters Patent of the United States.

The object of my invention is to produce a boot or shoe which will conform to the anatomical structure of the human foot, so that the boot or shoe, if of proper size, will fit the foot snugly but comfortably when first put on without going through the present disagreeable process of breaking in the shoe to the foot. My improvement is based on a discovery, which is the fruit of a careful investigation of the structure and formation of the human foot.

In order to carry out my invention, I construct a Last with an outside ball and shank projecting laterally more than usual in ordinary lasts; the shank is also lowered to conform more closely to the shape of the foot. The instep is located upon a line drawn from the center of the heel to the inside of the great toe, as it is in the properly-formed human foot, and overhangs the sole of the foot. The inner ball of the Last also overhangs the sole. The inside shank or hollow of the Last is likewise made to conform to the shape of the foot.

My invention will be better understood by reference to the accompanying drawings, in which Fig. 1 represents in full lines a diagram or plan of the natural human foot; that is, one undeformed by wearing im

## 8 • THE TRUE METHOD OF CONSTRUCTING

proper boots or shoes. The dotted lines in this figure show the outlines of the sole of my improved Last.



FIG. 1.

Fig. 2, a view of the underside of a Last constructed according to my improvement.

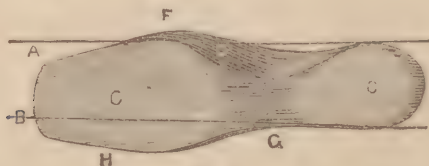


FIG. 2.

Fig. 3, a view of the inner side of my improved Last.



FIG. 3.

Fig. 4, a view of the outside of the same.

Fig. 5, measures of the foot for Lasts.

In the natural human foot a line drawn from the inner side of the heel, and touching the ball of the great toe, will also touch that toe throughout its entire length.



FIG. 4.

In Fig. 1 I have, however, shown the great toe as very slightly drawn in, as it naturally would be, when a shoe was worn. This line A above men-



FIG. 5.

tioned I call, for the sake of distinction, the base line.

A line B, drawn from the outer side of the heel parallel with this base line would pass through the



## 10 THE TRUE METHOD OF CONSTRUCTING

third toe B, usually near its center. This line, for the sake of distinction, I call the sole line.

A line C, drawn from the center C of the heel to the inner point A of the great toe, would pass through the instep D of the foot. This line I call the instep line. In the natural human foot nearly, if not quite, one-third of the foot lies outside of the sole line B, and the tendency of the pressure and spread of the foot is all outward. This will be seen by observing the bare foot in walking.

The great defect in the ordinary shoe is that it is formed on some arbitrary notion of symmetry irrespective of the natural formation of the foot, which is distorted into the shape of the boot or shoe. This arbitrary form generally combines an instep near the center of the shoe, an outer line of the sole nearly straight, and a toe pointed or inclined inward from each side.

The consequence of this mode of construction is that the great toe is deflected inward, and the foot thus deprived of its support, while the outer side of the foot is drawn inward also. This narrowing of the base of support renders the walk unsteady, insecure, and produces corns, bunions, and contracted toes. The common shoes after being worn will have become tread over outside by the effort of the foot to widen its base of support.

I construct the sole, E, of my improved Last to conform closely to the shape of the foot, as shown

by the dotted line in Fig. 1, making it, of course, slightly longer to leave room for the play of the toes in walking, as is usual.

The sole, it will be observed, is nearly flat across the ball, but is curved in other parts to conform to the foot, as shown in the drawing.

I form the instep D full or bulging, so as to overhang the inner side of the sole or the base line A, Fig. 2. The inside ball F is enlarged, and overhangs the inner side of the sole until it reaches the first joint of the great toe (see Fig. 2), and is thicker all the way to the end of the great toe than the corresponding portions of the outer side of the Last, which are thinned down to correspond with the diminished thickness of the foot on that side.

The outer side of the instep and waist is hollowed out so as closely to conform to the shape of the foot.

The outer shank G and ball H are lowered nearly to the same plane as the outer line of the ball and heel, and extended laterally as far as the foot does, thus giving a bearing for the foot on the sole and shank of the boot or shoe, as it should have. The boot or shoe being a counterpart of the Last, needs no description here.

The workman should, however, be careful to work to the outlines of the Last, wet the upper when lasting, and last the boot or shoe well, taking all the stretch out of the leather.

I thus produce, from nature's own model, a boot

## 12 THE TRUE METHOD OF CONSTRUCTING

or shoe that presents a symmetrical and beautiful appearance from the start without breaking in the shoe to the foot, or straining or injuring it, and one that will retain its proper shape until worn out.

I have often wondered why it was that so little has been done to secure clothing for the feet, so as to combine the advantages of a "good fit," a graceful and symmetrical boot or shoe, and, above all, an apparel that would permit the healthy growth, enjoyment, and proper action of the feet.

From the common "corn and bunion doctor" to the educated "Orthopædist," we hear next to nothing of "Pedal Hygiene," or the art of preserving the feet, which ought to rank as at least a semi-science. We are treated to the most liberal promises to cure (often not fulfilled), but hear nothing and know nothing of prevention. With a few unimportant exceptions, and for reasons not apparent, medical men have purposely, or unintentionally, neglected this productive little corner in the field of Hygiene. Possibly they thought it *infra. dig.* to dabble in the craft of the common cordwainer, or mayhap could not humble themselves to bow at the shrine of St. Crispin! But the true physician, who also understands his duty, can not afford to slight any branch of knowledge, science, or art which can be made subservient to the relief of suffering man and beast.

Turn we to the craft itself, and ask what it has done for humanity in the direction indicated? Not

in its whole history anything, except one or two attempts somewhat creditable, doubtless, to the authors, as theorists, but ineffectual when brought to the test of practical utility; and thus we see the feet have been less or more deformed in all ages, among civilized nations, in nineteen out of twenty persons. But deformity is a mitigated evil, compared with grave and often fatal local and constitutional diseases arising from a habitual disregard of the laws of health, as affecting the feet. Among some of these may be mentioned corns, bunions, ingrowing nails, riding and contracted toes, sprained and weakened ankles, club feet, headaches, etc., etc.

Life becomes miserable, the temper odd and cynical, and man who prides himself in his erect position, has often been tempted to congratulate the horse on which he rides on his superior mode of progressing, the blacksmith being several thousand years in advance of the bootmaker in their respective crafts!

To make a good and true fitting boot and shoe, the lasts commonly in use must be discarded, as they have invariably been manufactured in defiance of the anatomical structure of the foot. The inveterate fault, never scientifically and radically cured, is still the practice of constructing the boots and shoes as if the outside of the foot was as firm and unyielding as the inside arch! This is by no means the case, as common observation will show, and is proved by any half-worn boot or shoe picked up at random. The

## 14 THE TRUE METHOD OF CONSTRUCTING

human foot presents two arches—one transverse—resting by one end on the ball of the great toe, and by the other end on a point corresponding with the junction of the little toe and the bone with which it makes a joint; when the foot is planted firmly and supports the half weight of the body, it will be seen that the outer butment of this arch sinks. Again, the foot makes an arch longitudinally, the outside, or outer edge of foot sinking and inside remaining firm. The common last makes no systematic allowance for this, and consequently the boots and shoes “go over,” forming distressing corns on little toe and side of foot near its joint, while the toes are crowded in a mass. In the mean time the great toe is drawn in, causing a bunion—occasionally the quintessence of misery, and bipedal locomotion thus becomes difficult, ridiculous, or impossible. From the earliest records of history we hear of whole armies baulked or vanquished by faulty shoes, supplied by a heedless or ignorant commissariat. The modern proverb, or toast, was well known to the ancient Greeks:

“Short shoes and long corns  
To our country’s enemies.”

The stubborn fact must be admitted that ninety children out of one hundred are born less or more predisposed to “talipes” or club foot. This tendency science must correct in the race, otherwise it must be aggravated by inheritance. It is easy to see that in the majority of cases the *flexor* muscles of the calf



of the leg are more than a match for the extensors. If this discrepancy is not counterbalanced it leads to a grave error in boot and shoe making. It will be found that a line let fall through the center of gravity, on each side of the body, which ought to impinge on the boot sole at a point which would exactly bear one-half the superincumbent weight, has, from time immemorial, been made to strike a point *outside* of the true point. By a careful examination of this matter, I have estimated the error at from half to three-fourths of an inch ! How many men and women have broken their hip joints and shoulders, not including minor casualties, passing along over pitching sidewalks and beveled corners, on account of this seemingly trifling blunder, statistics will never tell ! As at present commonly made, boots and shoes are well designed for our pitching sidewalks and beveled corners to break the necks and crack the skulls of old and young by shooting them into the gutter.

But every evil cries aloud for its remedy—sooner or later to be supplied ; and every demand has a tendency to be associated with its adequate supply, and such is the case at last in the matter of foot-gear.

Any person of common understanding who will give this subject a careful investigation, will at once come to the conclusion that this Last amply supplies the above mechanical and physiological requirements, and revolutionizes the boot and shoemaker's

## 16 THE TRUE METHOD OF CONSTRUCTING

art, which also becomes a science, and a humanitarian one at that.

After years of study, perseverance, and experiments I have perfected a Last which will, by aid of thorough machinery, unerringly yield a boot or shoe emphatically to "fit the feet," and even correct deformities, when susceptible of correction or cure, short of the aid of surgery — have, indeed, laid down a deeper and surer foundation for society, and improved the understanding between man and his mother earth, between whom there has so long been so serious a misunderstanding.

The principle combines equality of pressure, and therefore "a close fit," with beauty and symmetry. The tendencies of gravity and the play of the muscles are scientifically respected. In fact, when a man has on a pair of the McComber boots, he is himself again, and stands perpendicular with the world and square with everything and everybody.

I invite the attention of Boot and Shoe Manufacturers of all classes of goods, from the finest ladies' and gentlemen's boots and shoes to the farmers' and miners' heavy kip and stoga—not forgetting to invite the attention of the medical profession in an especial manner to its importance from the hygienic standpoint.

This is no mere fashion of a season, but an everlasting principle applied to remedy an error in the construction of boots and shoes, which has caused

more suffering than any other error that can be named.

Boots and shoes for men, women, and children, of all classes of material, made in factories and sold by the case, can be used by retail dealers to secure perfect fits in every instance, as a glove fits the hand, by having the different sizes and widths on hand. On the last page I append a scale of all the different sizes of my Lasts, — boots and shoes.

My business place in Chicago was destroyed by the great fire. My Patent Last had been introduced into some of the largest manufactories there, and had been received with favor.

In order to facilitate the introduction and use of my patented invention to the public, a Joint Stock Corporation has been formed, and the patent assigned to it. This corporation, bearing the name of "THE MCCOMBER PATENT LAST COMPANY," has an office at 154 Washington Street, Boston, where it is prepared to negotiate with the proper parties, with a view to licensing such to manufacture boots and shoes, or lasts, as the case may be, under this patent, on reasonable terms. Shop and town rights, to a limited extent, may also be obtained. Any further information will be cheerfully furnished, either by letter or in person, at the Boston office of the company.

JOEL MCCOMBER, *General Agent*,

McComber Patent Last Company, 154 Washington  
Street, Boston.

## REASONS WHY.

Why are the patent boots and shoes made on the McComber principle superior to all others? For at least nine reasons :

1. They are made to fit the feet, whereas according to the old plan, the feet were *made* to fit the boots and shoes, an absurd, monstrous, and pernicious custom, which has made partial or complete cripples of one-half of the human family.

2. Because the anatomy of the lower limbs, with their muscles, joints, and ligaments, as well as the feet, being carefully studied by Mr. McComber, he has succeeded in supplying foot gear that enables mankind to walk forth with that ease, grace, and confidence and dignity of carriage with which the human form divine has been so richly endowed by nature, and so ruthlessly robbed by the blundering vagaries of unscientific and arbitrary men.

3. Because the boots and shoes are made to fit easily from the first, the *Last* being better able to bear the brunt of breaking in than the feet themselves. tender organs at best, though the latter practice has been in vogue until now—a practice the cruelty of which millions will attest, and which often revives the recollection of the veritable ancient boot of the days of persecution.

4. Because they are twice as durable, the pressure being equal at all points, whereas in the old boot or shoe, friction and inequality of pressure caused corns and premature wear and tear at particular points, and also endangered the feet from freezing in winter.

5. By following nature the model is more graceful, elegant, and symmetrical; though the old school of shoemakers thought that the venerable dame was no match for them, but a trial of McComber's boots will show that for the first time the centers of gravity in boot and shoe making are settled by him so precisely, that the wearer can now keep his balance, standing or walking.

6. Because easy-fitting boots and shoes are indispensable to health and good looks, and, it may be added, to the moral deportment of mankind. It is possible "The Army in Flanders" would have kept the commandment, "Thou shalt not swear," better if Joel McComber had supplied them with boots and shoes, as corns, bunions, etc., are unknown to the wearer of them.

7. Because the McComber boot tends to prevent as well as cure the manifest inclination to club feet, a terrible distortion, which is on the increase, and which the best physiologists declare possible to be entailed by hereditary transmission even when artificially originated by run-over boots and shoes.



8. Because the wearer can walk faster, farther, easier, better, more comfortably, more gracefully than in any other boot or shoe.

9. Because by wearing the McComber boots and shoes, the inveterate abuse of the human feet is effectually prevented, and the image of God, thus far, preserved from deformity, as there is no cure so perfect as the absence of the disease.

### NOTICE.

To all whom it may concern, be it known, that I, JOEL McCOMBER, formerly of Rockford and Chicago, Illinois, but now residing in Boston, in State of Massachusetts, have obtained Letters Patent of the United States, dated November 22d, 1870, for an improved method of constructing boots and shoes, which Letters Patent cover and protect, not only the boots and shoes made in accordance with said Patent, but also the lasts on which said boots and shoes are made:

And whereas the purchasers and users of said lasts are equally liable with the makers and sellers thereof, this notice is therefore to warn all parties that no person, firm, or corporation, other than the said McCOMBER PATENT LAST COMPANY, and such parties as have been heretofore duly licensed, are authorized to make, sell, or use my improved lasts, or boots or shoes, or to use my name in connection with any lasts, or boots and shoes, and that all such trespassers will be held strictly responsible for their unlawful acts.

NATICK, MASS., August 28, 1873.

MR. JOEL McCOMBER — Dear Sir: I have been trying for several years to get boots that would fit my feet, and did not succeed until I had a pair made on your Patent Lasts you made for me. I am more than satisfied, and cheerfully recommend them to the public.

Truly yours, J. H. PARKER.

MR. JOEL McCOMBER — Dear Sir: Having worn shoes made on Lasts of your patent qualities for the past six months, I have no hesitation in saying I have been perfectly suited, and moreover, I have never found comfort in a new pair of boots or shoes until using your Last. I am yours thankfully,

JOHN Q. ADAMS,  
State Treasurer's Office, Boston, Mass.

BOSTON, September 30, 1873.

JOEL McCOMBER — Dear Sir: It is with confidence that I can recommend your Patent Last. I have been selling boots and shoes to the retail trade in the West and South-west the past year manufactured on your Patent Last, and have yet to hear of the first instance where they are not spoken of in the most flattering terms. It has been of frequent occurrence to find a retailer who was selling boots and shoes manufactured on the McComber Last speaking in the highest terms of the excellence of fit, style, and durability, ease and comfort to the wearer, time saved in fitting a customer, &c.; all in ignorance that it was the McComber Patent Last that caused the rapid sale of that particular manufacturer, the trader having no knowledge of the McComber Last.

Yours truly, C. TOPHAM.

CHICAGO, ILL., August 1, 1871.

MR. JOEL McCOMBER — Dear Sir: As superintendent of the Boot and Shoe Factory of Phelps, Dodge & Palmer, 48 and 50 Wabash Avenue, it has been my aim to produce work of the very highest order of merit, and have adopted many new features in the manufacture of boots and shoes. But no improvement that has come under my notice approaches so near my idea of perfection as the McComber Patent Last.

Being struck by the novelty of its appearance, I examined thoroughly its construction, and was impressed with the theory and believed it practical. I at once had a pair of boots made for my own use, in order to test the principle claimed

for the Last, and gave them a thorough trial. The result was, with the consent of the firm, the introduction of the Lasts into use in the factory, and I am confident that it will be the only Last used by us. A large number of our customers have tried on the boots, and every one without exception expressed their unqualified approbation, and all that have worn them are loud in their praise. I can truly say that I never turned out work before that I felt the same confidence in, in regard to fit and general excellence, as I have done since I commenced the use of your *Lasts*.

Yours, truly,

GEORGE C. PARKER.

In a subsequent communication Mr. Parker adds:

Perhaps the best answer to your inquiry as to my better matured opinion of your Patent Lasts will be to state, that I have thrown aside every other last in the factory, and am using yours exclusively on stoga, kip, etc. For the first time in my boot and shoe manufacturing experience, I feel satisfied that I am doing my customers full and exact justice in giving them not only a good-fitting, but also a perfectly natural, easy, and good-looking boot on the foot. My first opinion of the last was, that it was particularly adapted to fine custom work, but experience has shown me that it is of as much if not more importance in the heavy stoga and kip and heavy calf for farmers as in the fine gents' boots and shoes. With this last the wearer is no longer obliged to go through the weary trial of breaking in a pair of 8 oz. upper leather boots, as it is already broken in by being made to the common shape of the human foot. It is not necessary now for a man to have a pair of boots three sizes too large for him, on account of the heavy leather hurting him when he first puts them on. A pair of stoga boots of 8 oz. upper made on your lasts will be as easy to the foot as a pair of Jadot or Mercier, and as shapely to the eye. I look to see that last adopted in all factories in a short time, as it will be impossible to sell any other boot or shoe wherever this has been introduced and made known.

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KENOSHA, WIS., Sept. 5, 1871.

MR. JOEL MCCOMBER—*Dear Sir*: We have manufactured boots for the retail and jobbing trade for the last twenty-five years, and have endeavored to use the best lasts obtainable. We have used lasts made by the most noted makers in New

York, Boston, and Philadelphia; but for the past year have used your Patent Lasts, and find that we can fit our customers better and easier from our stock of *ready made* boots, made over your lasts, than we can by measure over any others we have ever used.

Merchants and shoemakers, who buy of us by the case, make the same statement, and for durability and comfort they are unacquainted by anything heretofore brought before the public. We have no hesitation in giving the Lasts our unqualified indorsement and approval, and hope, for the sake of suffering humanity, that the time is not far distant when they will be universally adopted throughout the country.

Truly yours,

F. W. LYMAN & SON.

JOEL McCOMBER, Esq. — *Dear Sir*: Having thoroughly tested your invention of Patent Lasts to fit the feet, both by wearing boots made on them and by making them to the number of about one hundred pairs in my shop for my customers, I take pleasure in certifying to their great usefulness. Those for whom we have made boots over your lasts are very loud in their praise, many saying they were well-fitted for the first time in their lives; and I would say, that to all persons who bring the McComber Lasts to my shop for their work, I do not hesitate to warrant a perfect fit every time.

Respectfully,

EDWIN A. BIGELOW,  
Eagle Shoe Store, Rockford, Ill.

MR. JOEL McCOMBER: I have tested your Patent Lasts to fit the feet by making boots over about one hundred and fifty or two hundred pairs for different persons. I have also worn a pair of boots one year made on Lasts you made for my feet. I not only find the boots comfortable and easy from the beginning, but look better and retain the proper shape till worn out, making the boots last much longer.

I am happy to say your Lasts give universal satisfaction, and would cheerfully recommend them, and will warrant a perfect fit to any person bringing the McComber Last to my shop.

G. W. PARKER,  
Wood's Block, State Street, West Rockford, Ill.

NEWARK, N. J., *March 20, 1872.*

MR. JOEL MCCOMBER—*Dear Sir:* In reply to your inquiry as to our experience in the use of boots and shoes made on your Patent Lasts, we can say that on our own feet we have found them the easiest boot we ever tried, and our customers who have worn them unite in saying the same. They certainly obviate many difficulties encountered in using the old-style last, making a more perfect-fitting and better-looking boot or shoe; and if loose, setting smoother, and if snug, much easier than anything we ever tried.\*

In short, we think your claims come much nearer to the truth than the claims of any other patented article in the shoe line that it has been our fortune to fall in with.

Wishing you the success your efforts should meet with, we remain yours, truly,

LAWSEN & STEEPLE,

579 Broad, corner of Nesbit.

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MR. JOEL MCCOMBER — *Dear Sir:* Having tested your Patent Lasts, both by wearing boots made over them, and by making a large number of boots on them for our customers, we take pleasure in recommending them to all who desire a well fitting and comfortable boot. The universal testimony of those wearing boots made on them is, that they require no breaking in, look better, and wear longer than boots made over a common last. To all persons bringing these lasts to our shop, we do not hesitate to warrant a perfect fit

BROWN & WHEELER,

330 East State Street, Rockford, Ill.

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CHICAGO, *June 13, 1871.*

MR. JOEL MCCOMBER—*Dear Sir:* Having given the boots made over your Patent Last a thorough trial, I have no hesitation in giving them my unqualified approbation, and you my heartiest thanks. For comfort in wearing, perfection in fit, and good looks, they are all I could wish, while nearly a year's service attest their durability. I would advise all who desire to tread squarely, walk uprightly, and enjoy to the fullest extent the happy consciousness of being well and properly shod, to delay not in procuring boots and shoes made upon the McComber Patent Last.

Respectfully yours,

M. HEATH,

170 and 172 Randolph St



CHICAGO, *Sept. 16, 1871.*

MR. JOEL McCOMBER—*Dear Sir* : The boots made over your Patent Lasts have given entire satisfaction. I walked comfortable in them the very first day. As I have made use of the boots for several months, and find them as good fitting as when new, and no sign of treading over yet, which always troubled me in boots made over the common last, I wouldn't have boots made over any other but your Lasts.

Yours, truly, J. BAUR,  
of the firm of S. Baur & Co., dealers in Leather  
and Shoe Findings, 194 Lake St.

CHICAGO, *Sept. 14, 1871.*

MR. JOEL McCOMBER—*Dear Sir* : I send you this certificate in favor of your Patent Lasts, because I think they should be better known and more generally used everywhere. I now make a much better-fitting and neater-looking boot over your lasts than I could make over the old-fashioned ones, and I can warrant a fit to every one that comes.

ENDERICH & ENTZMINGER, 730 W. Lake St.

CHICAGO, 399 LAKE STREET.

MR. JOEL McCOMBER: Having worked for three months over your celebrated Patent Lasts, I am prepared to state my entire satisfaction and approval of them. I can warrant a perfect fit made over your lasts that I keep in my stock for custom work, as I intend to keep all the sizes and different widths on hand so that I can accommodate every one that favors me with his patronage.

Yours, truly, C. STELLER.

CHICAGO, *Sept. 20, 1871.*

MR. JOEL McCOMBER—*Dear Sir* : In reply to your inquiry as regards the sale and popularity of the boots and shoes made over your Patent Last, I can truly say, that my custom work has largely increased, and I find it difficult to keep up with the demand for the "Glove-fitting Boots." My customers are loud in their praise; and in working over your lasts I am sure of a *fit* every time, and to gain a smile of approbation from my former sore toed and foot pinched patrons.

Gratefully yours, JOHN B. MAEREL,  
336 W. Randolph St.

## FROM JUDGE MILLER.

ROCKFORD, ILL., Jan. 18, 1871.

JOEL McCOMBER, Esq.—*Dear Sir*: Your Patent Lasts have shaped for me a pair of fine, comfortable boots, easy from the first as others fitted to the feet by long and often painful wearing. "Easy as an *old shoe*," is a familiar comparison. Those using your admirable improvement can say this of their *new* boots and shoes, made easy from the beginning on scientific principles, with a strict regard to the anatomy of the human foot. How much anguish has been suffered in shaping shoes and boots to the feet by wearing, which has crippled multitudes with corns, bunions, and distorted joints, and given a hobbling gait, now, through your invention, to be succeeded by ease, elasticity, and grace of movement.

Wishing you great success in your enterprise, I remain,  
very respectfully,

ANSON S. MILLER.

CHICAGO, Sept. 14, 1871.

MR. JOEL McCOMBER—*Dear Sir*: The boots made for me over your Patent Lasts possess every good quality you claim for them. They are a nice fit, good-looking, and adapt themselves to the feet in such a manner as to make the wearing of them a positive luxury.

In gratitude for the comfort derived, and hoping to benefit others, I cheerfully recommend your lasts, and trust they will soon come into general use.

Yours, truly,

CHAS. STOSE,

Prop. Stose Block, 190 Randolph St.

CHICAGO, June 15, 1871.

MR. JOEL McCOMBER—*Dear Sir*: Having worn a pair of boots made over the McComber Patent Last to my entire satisfaction, it gives me pleasure to add my testimony in their favor, and cheerfully recommend them for their superior excellence, and hope they may come into the general use their merits deserve. Bad feet, caused by wearing boots and shoes wrongly constructed, is almost universal. But, thanks to your invention, I for one can rejoice in a "perfect understanding," made so entirely by the use of your Patent Lasts.

Wishing you success, I am truly yours,

P. FAIRNEY, M.D., 30 N. Dearborn St.

OAK PARK, ILL., *Sept. 18, 1871.*

MR. JOEL MCCOMBER—*Dear Sir:* I am wearing a pair of boots made over your Patent Lasts that fit me perfectly, and are every way satisfactory. The great points of excellence particularly noticeable are, an equality of pressure upon all the natural bearings of the sole, and its adaptation to the shape of the foot; obviates entirely the outward pressure, which in the old style is the prolific cause of corns and bunions. From experience in wearing the McComber Glove-fitting Boot, I am induced to believe that no greater blessing could be secured to the present and rising generation than the universal adoption of your valuable improvement for the use of ladies and children. All children have their feet abused and distorted by wearing straight shoes, and the tender foot is compressed into an unnatural shape, at the very time it should be allowed to retain its natural and beautiful proportions; and I am convinced the general use of your lasts would accomplish the great good desired.

Yours, truly,

ORIN PEAK, M.D.

CHICAGO, *June 12, 1871.*

MR. JOEL MCCOMBER—*Dear Sir:* I am so well pleased with the boots I have had made on your Lasts that I have determined to have Lasts made for my wife and two children. I have had so much comfort since wearing them that I think it would be selfish in me not to provide them also with the same. Will you please name some day when I can get measures taken for them?

I have had tender feet for several years past, and always have had a great deal of trouble in breaking in boots, but these I have worn continually ever since I had them, and they have been comfortable all the while; there was no breaking in to be done, and were from the first so much more comfortable than my old ones that I have never worn the latter since I obtained these.

I have taken pains to show the boots to my friends and explain their merits, and several of my sore-footed friends are going to try your Lasts. I am not afraid to advise them to do so, for I am satisfied that the principle on which they are made is correct, and that they can not help but be pleased and benefited by them.

Yours, truly,

JULIUS L. LOVEDAY.

CHICAGO, July 14, 1871.

JOEL McCOMBER, ESQ., CHICAGO, ILL.—*My very Dear Sir:* I deem it my duty, and it is also a great pleasure to say to you, that I am highly pleased with the boots made over your Patent Lasts, made from the measure of my feet in May last. The foot balances on the sole, and the boot seems to be the shape of the foot; there was no breaking in when new, but they seemed to fit like an old boot, and they continue to remain in same shape. I have been troubled with corns and tender feet for the last thirty years, and it has been with the utmost difficulty that I could procure a pair of boots that I could wear with any degree of comfort. In fact, I have almost universally suffered from an ill-fitting boot until I procured your Lasts, since which time I have been free from all annoyance in that respect, and shall take pleasure in recommending your Lasts to all who may desire a perfect-fitting boot.

Truly yours,

JOHN HUTCHINSON,  
170 North Water Street.

CHICAGO, Jan. 4, 1871.

MR. JOEL McCOMBER—*Dear Sir:* I am forty-eight years old, and for the first time in my life I am wearing a pair of boots that fit my feet and feel comfortable. They were made over your Patent Lasts, and I am highly pleased with them in every respect.

I am very truly yours,

N. W. ABBOTT, M.D.,  
Office 161 South Clark St.

MR. McCOMBER: The Lasts you made for me are entirely satisfactory. For several months past I have worn a pair of leather boots made on them, and find them very comfortable. Being accurately fitted in the beginning, they save one from the painful process of "breaking in" new boots, or, in other words, fitting the *foot* to the *boot*. I think your invention a useful and humane one, entitling you to the *lasting* attitude of all tender-footed people.

Your friend,  
BEN. WINGATE,  
Firm of Wingate & Palmer, hardware merchants,  
Rockford, Ill

JOEL MCCOMBER, Esq.—*Dear Sir*: Those Lasts you made for me prove a perfect success. My boots made over them set easier, look better, and are a more perfect fit than any I ever had before, and if I could not replace them, would not take five times their cost. I would most cordially recommend your work to the confidence of the public.

Respectfully yours,

HORACE BROWN,  
Prop'r Brown's Hall, Rockford, Ill.

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

We, the undersigned, citizens of Rockford, Winnebago Co., Illinois, have worn boots made from Mr. Joel McComber's Patent Lasts, and would recommend them to all who may have occasion to use them. They are fully equal to all that is claimed for them. We have known Mr. McComber for several years as a resident of this city, and would recommend him to all whom he may call on in other places, as perfectly responsible and reliable, and whatever representations or statements he makes may be depended upon.

R. P. LANE.....Prest. 2d National Bank.  
SHEPHERD LEACH.....Farmer.  
ANSON S. MILLER.....Postmaster.  
DR. C. H. RITCHINGS.....Physician and Surgeon.  
THOS. D. ROBERTSON.....Prest. Win. Nat. Bank.  
M. STARR.....Cashier " " "  
R. EMERSON.....Reaper Manufacturer.  
CLARK & UTTER.....Machinists.  
FREEMAN GRAHAM.....Prop'r Cotton Factory.  
T. B. GAULT.....Station Agent.  
W. WATSON.....Sec'y Rockford Ins. Co.  
I. S. HIATT.....County Clerk.  
WM. G. KING.....Prest. N. W. D. A.  
ABRAHAM E. SMITH.....Editor Rockford Gazette.

**From Wholesale Boot and Shoe Manufacturers now  
using the McComber Patent Last.**

JOEL MCCOMBER, Esq. *Dear Sir:* During our experience as manufacturers of boots and shoes, for the wholesale and retail trade, we have sought in vain for a last which would conform to the anatomy of the foot, so as to combine an easy fitting, and good looking boot and shoe, until we tried your patent last. In these, our ideal of what a perfect fitting last should be, is fully realized. It is, in fact, a duplicate foot, so perfect in its adjustment and conformity to the living model, that the boot or shoe made over it (if of proper size) fits as a matter of necessity, as a glove fits the hand. So far as we have heard from our customers, they are unanimous in their approval of the goods made on your patent last. We have tested the goods taken from sale cases by personal wear, and find that they are the most comfortable, the most durable, and the best looking boots and shoes we have ever worn. We cheerfully recommend your patent last to the trade, as the best in use, and fully indorse your pamphlet to be, as its title claims, the true method of constructing lasts, boots, and shoes. And we also indorse the recommendations from others therein contained.

J. A. & D. H. PACKARD, North Bridgewater, Mass.

GEO. B. CLAPP, East Abington, Mass.

CLAPP & BILLINGS, Marlboro', Mass.

W. E. PUTNAM & Co., 48 Hanover Street, Boston, Mass.

ALANSON BELCHER, 102 Washington Street, Boston, Mass.

FELTON & CHIPMAN, Marlboro', Mass.

WILLIAM H. BOND, Weymouth, Mass.

DANA SMITH, " "

WM. B. HUNT, " "

P. H. LINTON, " "

HATHAWAY & SOULE, New Bedford, Mass.

A. B. BATES, South Hingham, Mass.

D. GROSE & Co., North Abington, Mass.

GEO. E. CURTIS, 41 Hanover St. Factory at Abington, Mass.

E. BRIMHALL, Clinton, Mass.

D. FLETCHER, " "

LEFAVOUR & KILHAM, Beverly, Mass.

MANCHESTER SHOE AND LEATHER CO., Manchester, N. H.

W. BRISTOL, JR. & Co., 8 Warren Street, New York.



BANGOR, ME., Oct. 2, 1873.

MR. JOEL MCCOMBER — Dear Sir: We have been selling boots and shoes made on your Patent Lasts for the past six months, and have given them a thorough and most satisfactory trial. We are glad to say that all our customers who appreciate an easy, handsome, and perfectly fitting boot, speak of them in the highest terms, and will have no others. They not only fit like a glove when new, but *retain* their shape until worn out, and do not run over. The demand is rapidly increasing, and they are superseding the work made on the common lasts.

Yours respectfully,

BUZZELL & SHAW.

BROOKLYN, Oct. 2, 1873.

MR. JOEL MCCOMBER — Dear Sir: Having had an experience of twenty-five years in manufacturing and retailing boots and shoes, and having used goods made on your Patent Last for two years, I can say that I have found no last that meets my idea as well as your celebrated Patent Last. Its advantages are many, they fit the feet so perfectly that a boot or shoe made on them can be worn with comfort from the moment they are put on. Another is, boots and shoes made on your last do not run over, as those made on the old style. I take pleasure in recommending them to the shoe manufacturers and the public generally.

Yours respectfully,

F. EDWARDS,

166 and 168 Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn.

NEW YORK, Sept. 8, 1873.

MR. JOEL MCCOMBER — Dear Sir: We have been manufacturing and selling to retail dealers for nearly two years Women's, Misses', and Children's fine boots and shoes made on the McComber Patent Last, and take pleasure in stating that the goods have given the most unqualified satisfaction. By the use of the McComber Last, a perfect fit and good-looking boot and shoe are always obtained, and the wearer is sure to continue to use and recommend the same, and the dealer is equally delighted with the successful fit and the perfect satisfaction given his customers. We have never sold to a dealer but what wanted them again. We congratulate you on the successful introduction of the McComber Last, and consider it one of the substantial things that are absolutely indispensable to the health, comfort, and happiness of man.

Gratefully yours,

W. BRISTOL, JR., & CO.; No. 8 WARREN STREET.

# SCALE OF MEASURES FOR THE MOOMEER PATENT LAST.

## MEN'S, WOMEN'S, AND BOYS' LASTS.

SIZE.	No. 1. Instep.	No. 2. Instep.	No. 3. Instep.	No. 4. Instep.	No. 5. Instep.	No. 6. Instep.
1	7 1 1/2	7 1 1/2	7 1/2	8	8 1/2	8 1/2
1 1/2	7 1 1/2	7 1 1/2	7 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
2	7 1 1/2	7 1 1/2	7 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
2 1/2	7 1 1/2	7 1 1/2	7 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
3	7 1 1/2	7 1 1/2	7 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
3 1/2	7 1 1/2	7 1 1/2	7 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
4	7 1 1/2	7 1 1/2	7 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
4 1/2	7 1 1/2	7 1 1/2	7 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
5	7 1 1/2	7 1 1/2	7 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
5 1/2	7 1 1/2	7 1 1/2	7 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
6	7 1 1/2	7 1 1/2	7 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
6 1/2	7 1 1/2	7 1 1/2	7 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
7	7 1 1/2	7 1 1/2	7 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
7 1/2	7 1 1/2	7 1 1/2	7 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
8	7 1 1/2	7 1 1/2	7 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
8 1/2	7 1 1/2	7 1 1/2	7 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
9	7 1 1/2	7 1 1/2	7 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
9 1/2	7 1 1/2	7 1 1/2	7 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
10	7 1 1/2	7 1 1/2	7 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
10 1/2	7 1 1/2	7 1 1/2	7 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
11	7 1 1/2	7 1 1/2	7 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
11 1/2	7 1 1/2	7 1 1/2	7 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
12	7 1 1/2	7 1 1/2	7 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2

## YOUTHS', MISSES', AND CHILDREN'S LASTS.

SIZE.	No. 1. Instep.	No. 2. Instep.	No. 3. Instep.	No. 4. Instep.	No. 5. Instep.	No. 6. Instep.
2	7 1 1/2	7 1/2	8	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
2 1/2	7 1 1/2	7 1/2	8	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
3	7 1 1/2	7 1/2	8	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
3 1/2	7 1 1/2	7 1/2	8	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
4	7 1 1/2	7 1/2	8	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
4 1/2	7 1 1/2	7 1/2	8	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
5	7 1 1/2	7 1/2	8	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
5 1/2	7 1 1/2	7 1/2	8	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
6	7 1 1/2	7 1/2	8	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
6 1/2	7 1 1/2	7 1/2	8	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
7	7 1 1/2	7 1/2	8	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
7 1/2	7 1 1/2	7 1/2	8	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
8	7 1 1/2	7 1/2	8	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
8 1/2	7 1 1/2	7 1/2	8	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
9	7 1 1/2	7 1/2	8	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
9 1/2	7 1 1/2	7 1/2	8	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
10	7 1 1/2	7 1/2	8	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
10 1/2	7 1 1/2	7 1/2	8	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
11	7 1 1/2	7 1/2	8	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
11 1/2	7 1 1/2	7 1/2	8	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
12	7 1 1/2	7 1/2	8	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2

The width has a corresponding grade with the instep measure.

## NEW ENGLAND TESTIMONIALS.

BOSTON, Aug. 23, 1873.

JOEL McCOMBER, Esq. — Dear Sir: During the last eight months we have sold about eight hundred pairs per day of men's, boys', and youth's shoes, made on the McComber patent last, and they have given general satisfaction.

RICE & HUTHINS, 89 Bedford St., Boston.

BOSTON, Aug. 22, 1873.

JOEL McCOMBER, Esq. — Dear Sir: I have proved and tested your patent last, in gents' as well as ladies' and misses' boots, and find them superior in fit and comfort, by adjusting itself to the foot, to any other last ever sold, and intend, for the future, to sell shoes made on your lasts exclusively.

JOSEPH BENARI, 413 Washington St.

BOSTON, Aug. 22, 1873.

J. McCOMBER — Dear Sir: We have sold boots and shoes made on your patent last for more than a year past, and they give the best of satisfaction. All who have worn them have expressed the opinion that, for fit and comfort, they are unsurpassed.

Yours respectfully,

N. A. MOSES & CO.

139 Court St., Boston.

NORTH BRIDGEWATER, MASS., Aug. 20, 1873.

MR. JOEL McCOMBER — Dear Sir: During the past eight months we have sold upwards of 2000 cases shoes made on the McComber patent last, and we are pleased to inform you that all our customers unite in saying that they are the best fitting goods they have ever seen. We regard it as a perfect last.

Yours truly,

J. A. & W. H. PACKARD.

BANGOR, ME., Aug. 14, 1873.

JOEL McCOMBER, Esq. — Dear Sir: About one month ago I commenced using your patent lasts, and have made one hundred pairs of custom boots, and a great many goods for my jobbing trade, and the opinion expressed by my customers is, that **THE McCOMBER LAST IS A BENEFIT TO HUMANITY.** It is the best manufacturing last I have ever used, as boots made upon it fit *without fail*, and it is establishing itself in this section.

Yours truly,

THOMAS HERSEY.

BOSTON, Aug. 27, 1873.

MR. JOEL McCOMBER — Dear Sir: Having worn several pairs of boots made on your patent last, I find them much superior to any I have ever worn, being more comfortable, stylish, and durable.

T. T. HARTFORD, Pattern Maker, 3 Friend St.

# NOTICE.

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In order to facilitate the introduction and use of my patented invention to the public, a

## JOINT STOCK CORPORATION

has been formed, and the patent assigned to it. This corporation, bearing the name of

**The McComber Patent Last Company,**

Has an Office at

**154 WASHINGTON ST., BOSTON,**

where it is prepared to negotiate with the proper parties, with a view to licensing such to manufacture boots and shoes, or lasts, as the case may be, under this patent, on reasonable terms. Shop and town rights, to a limited extent, may also be obtained. Any further information will be cheerfully furnished, either by letter or in person, at the Boston office of the company.

JOEL McCOMBER,  
*President and General Agent.*

GEORGE E. CURTIS,  
*Secretary and Treasurer.*

JOEL McCOMBER,  
LEWIS FELTON,  
WM. H. BOND,  
GEO. E. CURTIS, } *Directors.*

HON. CHAS. L. WOODBURY, }  
CHARLES G. KEYES, Esq., } *Counsel.*